

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 2490 - SB 2588**

February 18, 2014

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Creates the *Firefighter Training Act of 2014* that requires the State Fire Marshal to develop a grant program for the purpose of expanding training to volunteer and career firefighters across the state. Such grant program shall consist of 10 annual basic firefighting courses administered by the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy (FSCEA). The State Fire Marshal shall accept applications to host training events from recognized fire departments or groupings of recognized fire departments, giving consideration to a department that meets certain criteria.

Specifies the required information to be included on a grant application. If a fire department receives a grant for a course and is unable to meet the minimum personnel guaranteed in its grant application, the department will be responsible for the share of expenses related to the number of personnel below the provided number. Any firefighter who successfully completes one of ten basic firefighting courses offered through this grant shall be eligible to attend the State Fire Academy's live burn course at no cost, including the cost of training, lodging, and meals; provided, the State Fire Marshal's Office may charge a deposit for registration.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$48,500**

**Increase Local Expenditures - Exceeds \$1,000/Permissive\***

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Commerce and Insurance, Fire Prevention Division (FPD), approximately 210 firefighters will each take and successfully complete the basic firefighter course through one of the ten grant courses.
- According to FPD, the basic firefighting course costs \$95 per firefighter.
- The increase in recurring state expenditures for 210 firefighters to take the basic course is \$19,950 (210 x \$95).
- Upon completing this basic firefighting course, the 210 firefighters will take the live burn course.
- The firefighters will receive food and lodging, free of cost, on the campus of the Fire and Codes Academy. A one night stay is \$40 and two days of meals is \$46.
- According to FPD, the live burn course costs \$50 per firefighter.

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- The total increase in state expenditures for 210 firefighters to take the live burn course is \$28,560 [210 x (course \$50 + food \$46 + lodging \$40)].
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is \$48,510 (\$19,950 + 28,560).
- Fire departments will likely provide transportation to and from the various events.
- Due to a number of unknown factors such as mode of transport, owner of vehicle, gas efficiency of vehicle, locale of departure, and destination, the exact transportation cost is unable to be determined but is reasonably estimated to result in reimbursements from local jurisdictions exceeding \$1,000 annually.

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jdb